

THE BEST PAINT FOR GALVANIZED IRON.

The painting of galvanized iron, so that the coating will adhere firmly and neither crack nor peel, says Joseph Griggs in the Painters' Magazine, is a problem that many of the craft have tried to solve in the past without success. In our daily travels through the streets of large cities, if we keep our eyes open, we can see coats of paint, plain and sanded, hanging down in large shreds from galvanized iron bay window sheetings, cornices, awnings, &c., leaving the metal exposed, and this peeling will take place in anywhere from two months' to one year's time after painting. To prevent such a result we must of necessity first look to the causes that bring it about. In the first place galvanized iron is prepared by first pickling black iron in a solution of sulphuric acid and water, so as to remove mill scales, rust and grease, in order to make the subsequent galvanic bath take the proper hold. This bath, which consists of melted zinc and tin, produces a coating on the iron which is of very much the same nature as sheet zinc, and every painter of experience knows that ordinary oil paint will not adhere to metallic zinc. Next it will be observed that the handling of the metal in course of erection is liable to make its surface greasy, and it is but natural that unless grease and dust, &c., be removed preparatory to first coating, the paint cannot adhere to the metal. A wash with strong soda water, or soft water to which some ammonia has been added, and subsequent rinsing with clear water, will remove the grease. A still better wash is dilute muriatic acid, which will, on drying, produce a grayish film that should be rinsed with clear water and the surface allowed to dry before beginning to prime.

As to the paint for first coating galvanized iron, beware of white lead, because it remains soft and eventually peels; of zinc white, which will crack and flake; of any of the light carbon paints which require much oil to spread, because these will wrinkle and later on part. The cheap, ordinary mineral paints will not serve the purpose either, because these are most liable to peeling. Red lead, as a base for an all-oil paint, has given best service, but it, too, has given away at times, and the cause of the trouble appears to be that in an all-oil paint the oil is attacked by the metallic zinc. The writer has found, after many trials, that a paint made from a heavy pigment that requires a small percentage of thinner for spreading, will serve the purpose of first coating galvanized iron best of all. Thus a mixture of equal parts by measure (not weight) of dry red lead and first-class mineral brown, ground together dry and then mixed by hand with equal parts of pure raw linseed oil and pure spirits of turpentine, without the use of any japan or liquid drier, has given the most durable and effective results. Over this priming any good oil paint may be applied, and permanent adhesion may be looked for.

The reason for employing dry red lead is to let the paint oxidize on the surface rather than to have it saponify the oil in the pot, as there is ample proof that such paint is most liable to peel, it having lost its cementing qualities. Let it be noted, however, that this semi-flat, yet fairly

elastic paint is to be used for first coat only and not as a finish. It is intended to isolate the oil paint from the metallic surface, to prevent the latter from acting on the oil. And under no consideration should boiled oil be used in mixing this first coat for galvanized iron. If a good grade of mineral brown cannot be had, a fine, chemically pure oxide of iron, such as Indian red, may be used in its place and serve the purpose even better. And no more of the paint should be made at any time than can be used the same day.

THE CEMENT MARKET.

The arrivals of cement at Montreal last week were 3,820 English and 8,170 of Belgian and German, as against no English and 3,600 Belgian and German for the previous week, making a total to date of 47,187 English and 129,703 Belgian and German. The feature of the trade was the sale of 25,000 barrels of German cement at about \$2.40 per barrel. Tenders were called for this lot of cement by the government some two weeks ago, and, according to report, the contract was awarded last week to two local importing houses at the above price. It is to be used for the construction of a new lock at the foot of McGill street, and 4,000 barrels will be delivered this season, and the remaining 21,000 next spring. Aside from the above a very fair jobbing trade has been done on both local and western account. Stocks are ample to fill all immediate requirements and prices show no change.

The imports of firebricks last week were 196,590, as against 108,000 for the previous one, making a total to date of 2,234,189. The demand at present for bricks is somewhat limited and trade is quiet, with prices steady at \$17 to \$24 per 1,000, as to brand, ex wharf.

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